



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Planning and  
Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**For Agenda Of:** July 1, 2014  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development,  
Director(s) 568-2085  
Contact Info: David Lackie, Interim Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,  
568-2023  
**SUBJECT:** Coastal Commission LCP Planning Assistance Grant Application  
County of Santa Barbara Coastal Hazard LCP Amendment; First, Second, and Third  
Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors,

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of the Planning and Development Department to apply for and enter into a contract to accept a grant if awarded, from the California Coastal Commission for the Local Coastal Program (LCP) Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$64,000 for the proposed County of Santa Barbara Coastal Hazard LCP Amendment (Attachment 1).
2. Determine that the proposed grant application is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and Section 15265 and the Notice of Exemption (Attachment 2).
3. Direct staff to return to the Board of Supervisors with the grant as part of the Department's budget and work program request for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 if the grant is awarded.

**Summary Text:**

The Local Coastal Program (LCP) Planning Grant Program (Grant Program) is funded by the California Coastal Commission. The overall purpose of the Grant Program is to support local governments responsible for planning under the California Coastal Act (Coastal Act) to update and certify LCPs that implement the statewide goals and policies of the Coastal Act, with special emphasis on planning for sea level rise and climate change.

The Planning and Development Department requests authorization to apply for a grant in the amount of \$64,000 to amend the County of Santa Barbara's (County's) LCP with new and enhanced existing policies and adaptation strategies addressing coastal hazards. The grant would also fund stakeholder engagement and outreach to help shape the policies, adaptation strategies, and regulations that would be included in the amendment of the County's LCP. The application deadline is July 7, 2014, with awards announcements expected in the Fall of 2014. If this project receives an award, work would occur over a two year period from July 2015 to June 2017 (Fiscal Years 2015-2016 through 2016-2017).

**Background:**

The Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project (Coastal Resiliency Project) has two phases. Phase I includes coastal hazard modeling and development of a vulnerability assessment. Phase II of the project comprises a coastal hazard adaptation plan and associated LCP policy amendments. Santa Barbara County's Coastal Resiliency Project is modeled after The Nature Conservancy's *Building Coastal Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation* project. Specifically, the County's proposed project approach is based off of the Coastal Resilience Ventura project.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Coastal Resilience Ventura project is currently underway, so it presents a great opportunity for collaboration and potential cost-efficiencies for the County.

**Grant Funding**

In January 2014, the County of Santa Barbara (County) received a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program to fund Phase I coastal hazard modeling and mapping of the southern coastline of the County (from Jalama Beach County Park south to the Santa Barbara and Ventura County line). On July 1, 2014, Planning and Development will be seeking authorization from the Board of Supervisors to apply for two additional grants. The first grant application that the Board of Supervisors will consider is the LCP Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Program. This grant will provide funding to continue coastal hazard modeling and a vulnerability assessment for the northern coastline from Jalama Beach County Park to the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County line which will complete Phase I of the Coastal Resiliency Project. The second grant application the Board of Supervisors will consider on July 1, 2014 is the LCP Planning Assistance Grant Program. This grant will fund Phase II work to incorporate the proposed new and enhanced existing coastal hazard policies, adaptation strategies, and regulations as part of the LCP amendment.

In August 2014, Planning and Development will apply for a third grant from the Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program for funding to complete the adaptation plan task in Phase II of the Coastal Resiliency Project.

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<sup>1</sup> A partnership project with Ventura County, Naval Base Ventura County, and the incorporated Cities of Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme and the Nature Conservancy.

### LCP Planning Assistance Grant

The County's main focus for applying to the LCP Planning Assistance Grant Program is to seek funding to help County staff amend the County's LCP with new and enhanced existing policies and adaptation strategies addressing coastal hazards. Results from the Phase I coastal hazards modeling will support Phase II coastal resiliency work. Phase II work includes long-term policy decisions and short-term permit decisions by staff, decision-makers and stakeholders to help develop scientifically sound and robust adaptation strategies and identify appropriate management options for dealing with coastal hazards. These alternatives will provide the climate information needed to develop new or enhance existing LCP policies and implement ordinances as well as future Community Plan efforts. The new and enhanced existing policies would integrate social, ecological, and economic considerations when addressing coastal hazards.

The Phase I work and Adaptation Plan and associated LCP Amendment would allow the County to:

- Develop maps of areas that may be vulnerable to inundation for different levels of sea-level rise and storm conditions;
- Identify the resources at risk due to sea-level rise;
- Develop planning tools and adaptation strategies; and
- Identify new policies and enhance existing policies in the County's LCP, including amendments to the Coastal Land Use Plan and implementing ordinances.

### **Environmental Review:**

The application for grant funding for a Local Coastal Program Amendment qualifies for a statutory exemption from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Attachment 2) because the project involves planning studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded by the County.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

The grant, if received, would fund \$64,000 for this potential project. The California Coastal Commission encourages applicants to provide matching funds, leveraging resources or commit significant in-kind resources to the project. Planning and Development Department would request a 25% cash match of \$16,000 for this project. The entire amount of the match (\$16,000) would come from the general fund and is proposed to be spread over two fiscal years (Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017). The County's cash match would be used to fund staff time from the Planning and Development Department. If the grant is awarded, Planning and Development Department would return to the Board with this item included in the proposed Long Range Planning 2015-2016 Work Program and the Department's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

Planning and Development Department will also identify community partners, like The Nature Conservancy and BEACON, to provide additional in-kind services (e.g., meeting facilities, workshop materials, advertising, etc).

**Special Instructions:**

A minute order of the hearing, one executed copy of the resolution, and copy of the notice and proof of publication shall be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, Attention: David Villalobos.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution Approving an Application for Grant Funding from the Local Coastal Program Planning Grant Program and Authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to Enter into a Contract for the Project.
2. Notice of Exemption, CEQA Section 15262 and Section 15265.

**Authored by:**

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